National illness Assistance Fund

384. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been proposed to popularize National illness Assistance Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to ask States to compulsorily constitute State illness funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether assistance will be provided to States for setting up of funds;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (earlier known as National illness Assistance Fund) is a popular well known scheme of the Government, as is evident from the increasing number of requests being received from the poor (living below poverty line) persons. Further, the major Central Government hospitals, including AIIMS, New Delhi and PGIMER, Chandigarh, there are counselors who assist and guide the indigent patients in availing the benefit of this scheme.

(c) and (d) State Illness Funds have been set up in all States/UTs except the States of Assam, Haryana, Manipur Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Nagaland who have been advised repeatedly to set up the same.

(e) and (f) Financial assitance to States is provided to the extent of 50% of the contributions made by the State Governments to the State illness Fund.

(g) Does not arise.